



**Michigan Food &
Farming Systems-MIFFS**
Bringing Farmers & Communities Together

172 Natural Resources Building
East Lansing, MI 48824
Tel: 517-432-0712
Fax: 517-353-7961
www.miffs.org

October 21, 2009

The Honorable Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

RE: Executive Order 2009-45 on DNR and DEQ consolidation issued October 8, 2009

Dear Governor Granholm,

Michigan Food and Farming systems (MIFFS) is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to advocating for local food choices for healthy people and communities. For over ten years MIFFS has developed and implemented programs that assist both farmers and consumers through increasing the supply of locally grown food to farmers markets, institutions and other retail and wholesale venues. We partner with a multitude of stakeholders, including the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA). One example is our work with the Food Policy Council to promote the use of electronic benefits transfer cards to make healthy food choices available to all citizens.

While we recognize the authority of the Governor and the Executive branch to reorganize state government, we must express our concern about the impact of Executive Order 2009-45 on food and agricultural public policy. Through this order, three public advisory bodies have been eliminated in the MDA, and the policy making and director appointment role of the Michigan Commission on Agriculture is removed thus shifting the Commission role to merely an advisory responsibility. We are concerned that the avenues for public participation in state food and agriculture policy formation have been substantially reduced.

The MIFFS Council unanimously opposes Executive Order 2009-45 as presented on October 8, 2009 and strongly urges reconsideration of the order and its potential negative impacts on Michigan's citizens and the food and agriculture industries of this State. We both share the common goal of providing a safe, healthy, and local food supply for the people and communities of Michigan. Michigan Food and Farming Systems stands ready to assist in any discussions that might result in an amended Executive Order which enhances the opportunities to provide public input into food and agriculture policy decisions that advance local food choices for healthy people and communities.

If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 269.441.7280 or by email at joe.colyn@juno.com.

Sincerely,

Joe Colyn
President

CC: Speaker of the House
Senate Majority Leader

